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The rate of chirp seems to be entirely determined by the temperature and this to such a degree that one may easily compute the temperature when the number of chirps per minute is known.

Thus at 60° F. the rate is 80 per minute.

At 70° F. the rate is 120 a minute, a change of four chirps a minute for each change of one degree. Below a temperature of 50° the cricket has no energy to waste in music and there would be but 40 chirps per minute.

One may express this relation between temperature and chirp rate thus.

Let T . stand for temperature and N , the rate per minute.

$$T.=50+\frac{N-40}{4}$$

For example. What is the temperature when the concert of crickets is 100 per minute?

$$T.=50+\frac{100-40}{4}=65^{\circ}.$$

EDITOR'S TABLE.

—ONE of the most important advances based upon scientific researches is now under discussion in Boston. The Associated Boards of Health of Massachusetts now advocate the licensing of every person engaged in the milk business, the licenses only to be granted after the thorough inspection of the locations of the business and the sources of the supply, even to an examination of the cows. Within the past year several severe epidemics of typhoid fever in and near Boston have been traced to milk supplies, and the very source of infection found. Only a few years ago milk was looked upon as the very safest drink and food for mankind, but one has only to consider the facts brought out by Prof. W. T. Sedgwick in his report upon milk to the Associated Boards of Health to see that we must sooner or later come to some governmental supervision in this matter, for as the case now stands in our cities, milk is about the most dangerous substance that enters our houses.

—EVERY one who reads the foreign journals is frequently gratified by the praise they accord to our government publications. Typo-

graphy, illustration and the matter itself all come in for commendation. There is, however, one department of our government with which fault must be found in this respect—the Department of Agriculture. Here the fault lies in the multiplicity of serials issued. It would seem that in this department each head clerk considered it necessary to issue his own publication, and, in many cases, several series of publications. The result is that in the present decade there have issued from this department about one hundred series of documents, so that students and librarians have great difficulty in keeping track of them. Then, too, these serials are unduly padded, the truly valuable matter which occasionally appears in them being buried among a mass of valueless material, apparently prepared from a spirit of rivalry between the different bureaus and divisions.

The following list of publications is probably not complete, but it is published here for two reasons: first to show the senseless extent to which this division into series has been carried; and, second, as an aid to librarians in arranging these publications and noting deficiencies.

The Department of Agriculture issues the following publications which are not distributed among the separate bureaus: Circulars, Miscellaneous Circulars, Farmers' Bulletins, Special Reports, Miscellaneous Special Reports, Reports of the Secretary, Year Book—a total of seven.

From the separate divisions appear the following:—

Bureau of Animal Industry: Circulars, Circulars of Information, Bulletins, Special Bulletins, Annual Reports.

Division of Soils: Bulletins.

Division of Agricultural Soils: Bulletins.

Division of Agrostology: Circulars, Bulletins.

Division of Biological Survey: Circulars, Bulletins.

Division of Botany: Bulletin (octavo), Bulletin (quarto), Circulars, Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium, Special Bulletins, Illustrations of North American Grasses, Report of the Botanist.

Division of Chemistry: Bulletins, Circulars, Report.

Division of Entomology: Circulars, Circulars (second series), Bulletins, Bulletins (new series), Periodical Bulletins, Special Bulletins, Technical Series, Reports, Insect Life.

Division of Forestry: Circulars (octavo), Circulars (quarto), Bulletins (octavo), Bulletins (quarto), Reports upon Forestry, Report of the Chief of the Division of Forestry.

Division of Garden and Grounds: Report.

Division of Microscopy: Report, Food Products.

Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy : Bulletins, Reports, North American Fauna.

Division of Pomology : Bulletins, Circulars, Report of the Pomologist, Report of the Assistant Pomologist, Special Reports.

Division of Publications : Circulars, Reports.

Division of Records and Editing : Report.

Division of Statistics : Circulars, Crop Reports, Miscellaneous Reports, New Series Reports, Special Reports, New Series Miscellaneous Reports, Miscellaneous Series Bulletin, Miscellaneous Series Reports, Reports of the Statistician.

Division of Vegetable Pathology : Bulletin, Circular, Report, Journal of Mycology.

Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology : Bulletin.

Fibre Investigation Series.

Library (octavos).

Library Bulletin (quarto).

Office of Experiment Stations : Circulars, Experiment Station Bulletin, Experiment Station Record, Miscellaneous Bulletin, Bulletin, Reports.

Office of Irrigation Inquiry : Bulletin.

Office of Road Inquiry : Circular, Bulletin.

Section of Foreign Markets : Circular, Bulletin.

Seed Division : Report.

Silk Section : Circulars, Bulletins, Reports.

Weather Bureau : Annual Summary of New England Weather Service, Bulletin, Bulletin of New England Weather Service, Lake Storm Bulletin, Monthly Weather Review, Report of Ohio Weather and Crop Service (octavo), Ohio Section of Weather and Crop Service (quarto), Report of the Chief, Weather Crop Bulletin, Report of the North Dakota Weather and Crop Service, Circulars of Information.

This list is, we think, sufficient to support our contention that multiplication of serials in the Department of Agriculture has been carried to an absurd extent. It is high time that the Secretary call a halt and give the "Division of Records and Editing" a blue pencil and the authority to use it.